

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15. (canceled)

Claim 16 (new). A system for controlling television images, the system comprising:

at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking selected images from viewing or recording;

at least one member of said set selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, total view time, time of day, image content ratings;

at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to at least one member of said set such that said at least one member is modified while said override instruction is active.

Claim 17. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said at least one override instruction is stored in a memory of said system.

Claim 18. (new) The system of claim 17 wherein said at least one override instruction is recallable from memory.

Claim 19. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said at least one override list is stored in a memory of said system and wherein at least one stored override list can be recalled from memory.

Claim 20. (new) The system of claim 16 wherein said override list includes a set of override parameters to be applied to said viewer profile.

Claim 21. (new) The system of claim 20 wherein at least one of said override parameters is selected from the group comprising: program ratings, time of day, channel, total view time, scene ratings, spending.

Claim 22. (new) The system of claim 16 including means to display to a viewer a status of said override list.

Claim 23. (new) The system of claim 16 including means to display to a viewer a status of at least one of said override parameters.

Claim 24. (new) The system of claim 1 including at least one apparatus selected from the group comprising: television receiver, cable box, video cassette recorder (VCR) tuner.

Claim 25 (new) A television image control system comprising:

at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking images outside said limits from viewing or recording by a corresponding viewer;

at least one of said limits selected from the list comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, total view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings;

at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to said at least one viewer profile for modifying at least one of said limits;

a memory for storing said at least one override instruction.

Claim 26. (new) The system of claim 25 wherein said limits modified in accordance with said override list are selected from the group comprising: program, channel, scene, program rating, scene rating, spending limits, total view time and time period.

Claim 27. (new) A system comprising:

video signal processing means for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce images;

blocking means coupled to said video signal processing means, said blocking means for blocking said images in accordance with a profile set by a supervisor, said blocking means including:

at least one override list applicable to said profile such that images blocked in accordance with said profile are unblocked in accordance with said override list.

Claim 28. (new) The system of claim 27 further comprising memory means for storing at least one of said override instructions.

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Claim 29. (new) The system of claim 28 wherein said system automatically stores at least one override instruction in said memory means.

Claim 30. (new) A method for controlling television images comprising the steps of:

establishing at least one viewer profile for blocking images from a corresponding viewer based on limits selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, total view time, time of day, image content ratings;

creating at least one override list including override instructions applicable to said at least one viewer profile for modifying selected ones of said limits.

Claim 31. (new) A method for controlling viewing of video images comprising the steps of:

coupling video processing circuitry to a display device so as to provide video images for display to at least one viewer;

providing parental control circuitry for blocking at least a portion of said video images from being displayed to a viewer in accordance with a corresponding viewer profile;

creating at least one override list comprising override instructions applicable to said video processing circuitry so as to unblock selected blocked video images;

storing said at least one override list in memory.

Claim 32. (new) The method of claim 32 including a step of recalling at least one override list from said memory.

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